Living Learning Center opens at Tyson

On track to be first Living Building in North America

By Jessica Daues and Tony Fitzpatrick

What could be one of North America’s greenest buildings — a flagship building on the cutting edge of sustainable design and energy efficiency — officially opened May 29 at Washington University’s new Living Learning Center at the Tyson Research Center.

"Tyson, located 20 miles southwest of the Danforth Campus, is 2,200 acres of woodlands, prairie, ponds and savannas where dozens of outstanding college graduates who commit to teach for at least two years in some of the country’s highest-need schools.

Since 1990, more than 20,000 individuals have participated in Teach For America, impacting the lives of approximately 3 million students. Teach For America has provided more teachers for low-income communities than any other organization.

Kopp addressed the crowd of approximately 3,000 people who gathered before her.

"Address the world’s problems later — after you have families and are still experiencing the naivete, the limitless possibilities and the opportunities of the fresh perspective," she told the crowd.

"We’ve seen the magnitude of the problem and the consequences of it, yes, but mostly because we’ve learned that it doesn’t need to exist."

Recent graduates may be tempted to assume that they will "address the world’s problems later — after you have families or make millions or gain skills and experience," she told the approximately 2,600 students who live at the center.

However, "there is something about the fresh perspective, the naivete, the limitless energy that comes along with youth and inexperience that enables recent graduates to solve problems that many more experienced people have given up on.”

In addition, Kopp said, solving the world’s problems, while possible, takes time — a resource many graduates possess.

Kopp said that it is easy for those who are fortunate enough to have received excellent educations and the opportunities that result to isolate themselves from the many different realities that persist in our world. "However, we cannot let this happen because of their magnitude and the consequence for individuals and communities and society and all of us, and especially because of the evidence that there are solvable problems," Kopp said.

"Because if we can solve them, we must," she said.

"If educational inequity, or poverty, or homelessness, or educational success and the moral responsibility of those who possess.
Chances to UnitedHealthcare plans effective July 1

The cost of WUSTL’s Physician’s HMO and POS plans, two program changes this July, will be

These changes are an enforce-

Employees participating in UnitedHealthcare plans are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new requirements and to discuss with their physicians and family members any costs associated with the new coverage.

Network provider for lab testing

Effective July 1, a physician pre-

Quantity limits

Effective July 1, the following medications will be limited to a certain quantity and for a certain period of time for the following UnitedHealthcare HMO and POS plans:

Asthma

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that affects about 8 million Americans. It is the leading cause of school absences and emergency department visits.

Those with asthma may experience breathing problems and a constant cough, which can be triggered by exercise or exposure to allergens.

An attack of asthma requires treatment with medication to prevent symptoms.

Education 

Families have many different goals when it comes to their children’s education.

The College Savings Initiative

The College Savings Initiative plans to assist all families in achieving college affordability and completion.

The initiative aims to:

1. Increase awareness and knowledge about the benefits of 529 college savings plans.
2. Assist families in establishing a college savings plan.
3. Encourage families to open a 529 plan.

Resources

For more information about the College Savings Initiative, visit CollegeSavingsInitiative.org.
Brain's organization switches as children become adults

By Michael C. Perdym

A child confronting an outraged parent demanding to know "why your brain is not the same as yours" has a new response: "Scientists have discovered your brain is organized differently than yours." But the same new study also provides parents with a rejoinder: While the overarching organization scheme differs, one of the most important core principles of adult brain organization is present in the brains of children as young as 3.

Regardless of how tempting it might be to assume otherwise, a newborn's brain is not inherently disorganized or chaotic," said study author Steven L. Petersen, Ph.D., the James McDonnell Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at Washington University in St. Louis, and director of the center at Washington University researchers.

Petersen and his colleagues study normal brain organization and development to learn more about how developmental disorders and brain injury can impair mental capabilities. They plan to apply what they learn to develop new treatments for such disorders.

The researchers use resting-state functional connectivity MRI to identify and study brain networks. Resting-state connectivity scans the spontaneous activity that takes place in volunteers' brains when they do nothing.

"It's the idea of a large network that lets you connect one node with another in a relatively short number of steps via special nodes," said Fair. "Like Kevin Bacon in six movies or less linking any actor or actress to Kevin Bacon, we've discovered special nodes have many connections to other nodes, allowing them to help subroutine the amount of steps that have to be taken when connecting nodes."

Researchers also tagged children's brains for "small-world" organization, also present in adult brains. This is sometimes called "Kevin Bacon" organization after the trivia game mentioned as "Degrees of Kevin Bacon." The game highlights the ease of connecting a character from a child's brain to an adult's brain using a network map of childhood friends and family members who a child has met or knows. The younger brain is like a large network that contains hundreds of smaller networks, each of which includes groups of neurons all connected to one another. As brains mature, the size and number of these smaller networks diminish, leading to a more "small-world" organization of the brain.

Brain's 24-hour clock turns gears of metabolism, aging

By Gwen Erison

Animals, including humans, have an internal 24-hour clock that creates a daily cycle of work and rest, sleep and wake, and growth and production. "This opens the door to the concept of treating age-related diseases and ways to restore a healthy daily circadian rhythm. It also could yield new interventions to alleviate metabolic disorders such as obesity and diabetes."

"It immediately demonstrated that a gene called SIRT1 was at the center of a network that regulates aging. A form of the gene is found in every organ on earth, and seven forms of the gene exist in humans. SIRT1 influences glucose breakdown and production, cholesterol metabolism, fasting, and insulin sensitivity. Increasing the activity of proteins related to SIRT1 extends the life span of yeast, worms, and flies. SIRT1 is also activated when energy is limited. A healthy daily circadian rhythm is important for mental health. And in animals," said study authors.

"We showed that this feedback loop between the circadian clock and metabolic machinery in the body that involves SIRT1 helps prevent aging and metabolic diseases such as obesity, a phenomenon known as 'the NAD-SIRT1 clock of aging' and 'age-resistant' in humans. " However, the waning of the circadian rhythm falls at the same time in different regions, including the brain, where the circadian clock is located. "It's the idea of a large network that lets you connect one node with another in a relatively short number of steps via special nodes," said Fair. "Like Kevin Bacon in six movies or less linking any actor or actress to Kevin Bacon, we've discovered special nodes have many connections to other nodes, allowing them to help subroutine the amount of steps that have to be taken when connecting nodes."

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Jazz at Holmes summer season begins June 11

The Linda Pregras Quintet will kick off the Jazz at Holmes series with a free concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 4.

The series, which began in 1998, features June 25, will be coordinate the series. "In the summer especially, these top-flight musicians can really help keep things cool," Linda Pregras is a pianist and former St. Louis who loves and performs in New York City, where she recently released her debut CD, "In Your Eyes," on the Mind Ship label. Pregras's quintet includes her husband, Stan Swanson, on soprano, saxophonist Jason Swagler, bassist Jahmal Nichols, and former St. Louisan who lives in New York City, trumpeter Anthony Wiggins.

The Gateway Festival Orchestra will begin its 46th season with American Classics July 12 concert will highlight the music of the Gateway Festival Orchestra opens 46th season with American Classics

The Gateway Festival Orchestra will begin its 46th season of free summer evening performances at 7:30 p.m. July 12 in Brookings Quadrangle with a program celebrating American composer Antonin Dvorak. From 1892-95, during which time he composed both the "New World Symphony and his "String Quartet No. 12 (F Minor)."

The Gateway Festival Orchestra was established in 1964 by conductor William Schatzkamer, professor emeritus in piano at WUSTL, in 1976. All concerts are free and open to the public. Those attending are encouraged to bring lawn seating. For more information, contact the Gateway Festival Orchestra at 509-0371 or visit gatewayfestivalorchestra.org.

Jazz at Holmes summer schedule

June 11: Linda Pregras Quintet 
June 18: Steve Ehrlich, associate dean for the Arts and Sciences, does some of his own arranging of songs by her husband, Dave Troncoso, and drummer Mary Morrison and former St. Louisan who lives in New York City, trumpeter Anthony Wiggins, will perform with his group July 9. Though known for performing a combination of jazz and world music, Weber also has per- formed with orchestras throughout the United States, including the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Then, July 16, trombonist Wayne Coniglio — a former bass trombonist for the Gateway Festival Orchestra — will perform with his ensemble. The Jazz at Holmes summer series concludes July 25 with the quartet of pianist Nathan Jackie. All concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Sue Taylor at 682-0674 or staylor@wustl.edu.

Gateway Festival Orchestra opens 46th season with American Classics

The Gateway Festival Orchestra will begin its 46th season of free summer evening performances at 7:30 p.m. July 12 in Brookings Quadrangle with a program celebrating American composer Antonin Dvorak. From 1892-95, during which time he composed both the "New World Symphony and his "String Quartet No. 12 (F Minor)."

The Gateway Festival Orchestra was established in 1964 by conductor William Schatzkamer, professor emeritus in piano at the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences, and other local musicians, in part to provide summer employment to many students of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Gateway was the first integrated professional orchestra in the St. Louis area, and its formation ultimately led to the merger of the Black Musicians' Association with the Musicians' Association of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. The group originally performed on the downtown riverfront but relocated to WUSTL in 1976.

All concerts are free and open to the public. Those attending are encouraged to bring lawn seating. For more information, contact the Gateway Festival Orchestra at 509-0371 or visit gatewayfestivalorchestra.org.
Tamara King receives Gloria White service award

By Jessica Daues

Though many students inter-
ested in WUSTL judicial pro-
grams learn about the role of 
judicial officers while in high school, a number of students who work at WUSTL as staff members were not familiar with such opportunities until they arrived on campus. Indeed, when I first began working at WUSTL, I had never considered a career in judicial administration.

When I joined WUSTL as a 
summer intern in 2006, I was 
invited to attend a WUSTL Judicial Services orientation. These orientations provide new employees with a brief introduction to the University’s judicial system, including the policies and procedures that govern the operation of campus judicial officers. The orientation also includes a tour of the WUSTL Judicial Services office, which is located in the Danforth Campus Facilities Building.

WUSTL Judicial Services offers a range of positions to help students and staff members resolve disputes that may arise on campus. These positions include Judicial Officers, who are responsible for hearing cases and making decisions, as well as Support Staff, who provide administrative support for judicial officers. WUSTL Judicial Services also offers internships and co-op opportunities for students who are interested in pursuing careers in judicial administration.

I am a WUSTL Judicial Services staff member who has been working at the University for several years. In my role as a judicial officer, I hear cases and make decisions on a daily basis. I enjoy being able to apply my legal knowledge and skills to real-life situations, and I am proud to be part of an organization that values collaboration and community involvement.

If you are interested in learning more about WUSTL Judicial Services, please contact the office at (314) 935-3300 or via email at judicial@wustl.edu. You can also visit our website at judicial.wustl.edu to learn more about our services and resources.

For more information, call Brad King, University safety officer, at 935-4052.
Time to renew U-Pass to ride MetroLink or bus service.

For the employer 2008-09 U-Pass holding WUSTL faculty and staff and free use of Metro, the regional transportation system — will expire June 30. Beneficiaries eligible employees may request a new U-Pass for the 2009-10 school year (Fall 2009 to Spring 2010). MetroLink, Parking & Transportation Services and Web site, parking.wustl.edu.aspx.html. The new pass will be valid through June 30, 2010.

A Tu-Pass program, funded by the University, provides benefits to the University faculty and staff, full- time students and full-time employees of basic services contractors to a Universal Metro Pass that allows free boarding of any Metro bus or train link light-rail or rail train.

Employees can renew the pass by logging onto the Parking & Transportation system and using their WUSTL KEY and password. Employees who do not know their WUSTL KEY and password should contact the Systems and Procedures helpdesk at 933-5701. After submitting an online request, employees should be sent a confirmation notification. After making a request, the screen should immediately go to a confirmation page. In case of email address was provided, the employee should receive a confirmation e-mail.

If an employee does not receive one of the Web site, Parking & Transportation Services, or a phone call, or email notification, Parking & Transportation Services has set up an email at U-Pass distribution centers on the School of Medicine and Olin (Olin Residence Hall, g.m. 2 -p.m., June 24 and 25) and encourages U-Pass holders to use the pick-up option for their pass.

Full-time summer students and full-time student rest spring semester who have not been expecting to receive a confirmation page. In case of email address was provided, the employee should receive a confirmation e-mail.

If you go to these communities, it is impossible to miss the fact that a big part of what is moving the needle is a bunch of talented, committed teachers, school leaders, district administrators and community members who learned through their experiences teaching in the classroom for America that it is possible to solve this problem and what it will take to make this happen.

Kopp ended her address with a challenge to the graduates to reflect on the disparities in the world and the enormous assets they possess to help solve them. She wished the WUSTL graduates well in whatever path she had found in her career. She said "I have spent one minute of my last 20 years searching for what I am doing because I happened into something that, while exhausting and challenging, seems to be brilliantly fulfilling."
Ten students awarded Fulbright Scholarships

By NEIL SCHON EHEIM

Ten WUSTL students have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The pilot Niland professor of pharmacology at the Olin Business School or to a charity of the donor's choice. Powell and Niland professor of management at Ol in Business School, died April 19, 2009, in St. Louis. He was 89. A native of Scranton, Penn., Niland came to Washington University in 1957 from Harvard Business School, where he earned a doctorate and taught for six years.

Robert S. Virgil, Ph.D., Ol in emeritus dean and professor, was a highly respected and influential scholar in his field. His contributions to the field of entrepreneurship and business education have been significant and enduring.

Speaking of

Stamos Metzidakis, Ph.D., professor of French and of comparative literature, both in Arts & Sciences, gave a public lecture at the University in the Humanities April 7 titled "Who Owns the Future?" in Nikolas Kazantzakis.

Robert Senior, M.D., the Distinguished University Professor of Pulmonary Diseases in medicine and professor of cell and physiology, was selected as the Ambrose Lecturer for the American Thoracic Societi ty's International Conference in San Diego May 15-20.

Taylor named Harris Institute executive director

By JESSICA MARTIN

Don Taylor III, J.D., has been named executive director of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute and Cash Nickerson Fellow at the School of Law. "Don Taylor's extensive practical experience and scholarship in the areas of international criminal tribunals and courts will be a wonderful addition to the work of the Harris Institute," said Leila N. Sadat, J.D., the Henry L. Ober schutz Professor of Law and director of the Harris World Law Institute.

"I am grateful for the support of Whitney Harris and of alumnus Steve Cash Nickerson in helping to attract such an outstanding candidate," Sadat said.

Taylor comes to the law school after three years served as legal officer in Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. During his tenure, he also worked on cases in the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Taylor focuses his research on international criminal law with a special interest on international criminal procedure, as developed and applied by international criminal courts and tribunals. He is a member of the editorial board of the Leiden Journal of International Law and a member of the International Criminal Procedure Expert Framework.

The Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute was established by the Harris family in 1989 to bring together the best minds and resources from the University of Washington and the University of Washington Medical Center to advance the development of evidence-based practice and research on health policy and health care delivery. The Institute aims to improve health care delivery and reduce health care costs by developing evidence-based policies and practices in health care delivery.

Obituaries

Nolan, 56

When Panos Kouvelis, Ph.D., a professor at Duke University, he loved to go to the Wolfe House in Durham, N.C. But it wasn’t the waffles or the coffee that attracted the young Greek immigrant. “I liked their onions,” says Kouvelis, the Emerson Distinguished Professor of Operations and Manufacturing Management at the Olin Business School. “But if you’re an operations guy like me, you would be fascinated by how they do it.”

Everything from the organized layout of the restaurant to the easy flow of orders from customer to waitress to cook and back to the table impressed Kouvelis, who has made a career of studying supply chains and how they work.

“A supply chain is a system that goes all the way from companies that work with raw materials to companies that do product transformation to companies that do distribution and selling,” Kouvelis says. “Technology, modern transportation and communications have stretched supply chains around the globe, creating complex webs of all the necessary components to create and deliver goods to customers. For an operations-oriented professor like Kouvelis, the challenge is to figure out how to coordinate all the links in the supply chain in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.

Researching and teaching supply chain management have become an important focus of the Boeing Center for Technology, Information and Manufacturing (BTIM), which Kouvelis directs in addition to teaching courses in the Executive MBA and EMBA programs. Monsanto Co.’s director of global supply chain, Brad Morgan, says his former professor’s soft-spoken, calm demeanor is a testament to his area of expertise. “He brings a great deal of passion to everything he does and is therefore able to inspire and challenge his students,” Morgan says. “While he has a strong grasp of supply chain theory,” he adds, “as well as the workings of supply chain risk management, network economics, and operations, he is always able to clearly articulate the relevance of supply chain from both a strategic standpoint and as it relates to everyday operations.”

Panos Kouvelis: his wife, Helen; and their children, (from left) Vaios, Alexa and Teddy, visit the Acropolis in Athens. Annual summer vacations acquaint the Kouvelis family with the ancient heritage of Greece.

Panos Kouvelis, Ph.D. (center), with third-year doctoral students Ehsan Bolandifar (left) and Xiaolei (Sherri) Wu. "Panos is a very warm person with natural leadership skills," says Lingyu Dong, Ph.D., associate professor of operations and manufacturing management. "He is one of the most talented, creative and hard-working scholars in our profession. I admire his continuous high level of scholarly curiosity and endless energy in exploring various areas of supply chain management."

By MELODY WALKER

Clarifying complexities
Kouvelis’ work untangling supply chains helps get goods to consumers more efficiently

Panos Kouvelis currently teaches in the Executive MBA program and the joint Ohio Perform MBA program in Shanghai, China.

Launching: a new master’s in supply chain management degree program in September 2009 at Olin Business School

Corporate consulting and executive programs: Boeing Co., Bunge, Duke Hospital, Emerson, Express Surge Inc., Hanes, Ocean Micro, MEMC, Snapchat/Stone, Solista Inc., and others

Kouvelis majored in mechanical engineering at the National Technical University of Athens. He knew he wanted to combine his engineering studies with business and says at the age of 23 “California dreams" were true when he was accepted to graduate school at the University of Southern California (USC).

The only son of a physician and homemaker, Kouvelis, who was born in Larnia, a small city in central Greece, initially thought the move to Los Angeles would be temporary—just long enough to pursue a master's degree.

With a dual MBA and industrial engineering degree from USC, Kouvelis was lured to Southern California, where Helen’s family lives. In addition to being baseball fans, the Kouvelis family also has adopted St. Louis Rams football as a favorite spectator sport.

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